Vidyalaya Sangathan in its 62nd meeting held on 27th January, 1997 interalia enhanced the promotion quota from 33 1/3% to 50% for promotion from Primary Teacher to Trained Graduate Teacher and Trained Graduate Teacher to Post Graduate Teacher to provide for more promotional opportunities.

**River Valley Projects**

3494. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to promote sustainability for river valley projects;

(b) whether the Government have already mooted out any methods to prevent the silting of river beds and so enhance the storage capacity on a need basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are considering the involvement of private enterprises in this respect; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : A number of steps have been initiated to promote the sustainability of river valley projects. These include emphasis on adequate operation and maintenance of projects, extension, renovation and modernisation, controlling of siltation of reservoirs through catchment area treatment and dam safety measures.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) With a view to arrest the silting of river beds and consequently that of the storage reservoirs, catchment area treatment is undertaken.

(d) and (e) For examining the feasibility and scope of private sector participation in Irrigation and Multi-Purpose Projects, the Government constituted a high level Committee which submitted its report on 22nd December, 1995. The Committee concluded that while private sector participation is feasible in respect of all irrigation (surface and ground water) and multi-purpose projects, it would be desirable to introduce this on pilot basis for selected projects. A copy of the report has already been sent to all States/Union Territories for necessary action.

**Intrusion in Arabian Water**

3495. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Pakistan is intruding into Indian waters in the Arabian Sea; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Government have seen reports regarding Pakistan's notification specifying 'baselines' to measure Pakistan's territorial waters, the contiguous zone, the EEZ and continental shelf in the Arabian Sea.

Government have conveyed to Pakistan that while they reserve the right to seek suitable revision of the 'baselines' as notified by Pakistan insofar as they impinge upon India's sovereign jurisdiction, Government unequivocally reject as unacceptable the coordinate point (K) 23 33.90N ... 68 07.80E referred to in the notification as it encroaches upon the territorial waters of India which are within its sovereign jurisdiction.

**Racket in Selling Petrol**

3496. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "For Cheaper Petrol, contract Government armed Forces drivers" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 1, 1997;

(b) if so, whether Government have received complaints about corrupt armed forces drivers racket in selling petrol and other petroleum products meant for official use;

(c) if so, the number of complaints received during the last two years and names of complainant as also quantity of petroleum products involved in the racket;

(d) whether the Government have conducted enquiry in this regard;

(e) if so, the details of the action taken against culprits as also the acts and rules under which action has been taken; and

(f) the mechanism devised or proposed to be devised to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (b) The Government are aware of the said news-item.

No specific complaint has been received in this regard. However, during the last two years, one driver (MT) was apprehended in July, 1995 by the Army Headquarters Transport Coy, Delhi. The individual was duly charge-sheeted and punished under Section 63 of the Army Act.

It the Armed Forces, there is a well-established mechanism, prescribing stringent/deterrant measures to safeguard against any pilferage of Government stores,